

# Sydney's "Coathanger" marks 75th birthday

At least 200,000 people, possibly many more, are expected to walk across the iconic *Sydney Harbour Bridge* to celebrate its 75th anniversary. The bridge took eight years to construct and was opened on March 19, 1932

November 1929



August 1930



October 1930



September 1931



## VITAL STATISTICS AND FASCINATING FACTS

**Arch span:** 503m **Height:** 134m

**Total weight:** 52,800 tonnes

▶ The bridge was built by English firm **Dorman Long & Co.** On completion, it was the largest steel arch in the world, rising 134m above sea level

▶ Sixteen workmen died during construction

▶ The two halves of the arch were joined on August 19, 1930

▶ Total cost with loan interest was almost 10 million pounds. It took most of the 20th century to pay off the loan

▶ Despite its curved appearance the bridge is constructed of only straight sections of steel

▶ The bridge contains six million rivets, weighing 3,200 tonnes in total

▶ The bridge's weight is carried on just four bearing pins only 37cm in diameter, each weighing over 300 tonnes

▶ The stone pylons, containing 40,000 blocks of granite, are purely decorative

▶ The bridge has over 100 moving parts, including sliding bearings

▶ It took 272,000 litres of paint to give the bridge its initial three coats

▶ In 1932, around 11,000 vehicles crossed the bridge each day. Today the average is almost 160,000